

CHRONICLE

On November 19th 2010 was held in Iasi, the homage session *Human impact on plant diversity. Structural and functional implications*, dedicated to the Professor Dr. Constantin TOMA, a member of the Romanian Academy, commemorating age of 75 years, and over 50 years have been dedicated to the work carried out in university and to promote excellence in plant biology in Romania.

In the first part of the event were presented homage exposures for the personality of Professor Constantin TOMA and messages addressed by representatives of universities and academic institutions in the country.

In the second part of the event was held scientific reports which revealed the results of scientific research on human impact on plant diversity, with some structural and functional implications.

We believe that this event was a soul celebration for botanists from Iasi, attended by over 125 people from the Iasi University Center, University of Bucharest, "George Bacovia" and "Vasile Alecsandri" University of Bacau, "Vasile Goldis" University of Arad and University from Oradea. The Professor receives messages from 54 personalities of biology from almost all university centers of Romania.

At 9.00 o'clock the auditorium B1 of the Faculty of Biology was almost filled with representatives of botany and other branches of biology in Bucharest, Bacau, Arad, University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine "Ion Ionescu de la Brad" Iasi, University of Medicine and Pharmacy "Grigore T. Popa", Biological Research Institute, and Gene Bank Suceava. The presence of a large number of former students, now professors or researchers, PhD students and doctors, people whose profession was shaped by the influence of personality of Mr. Constantin Toma, who was for many a model of professional dedication, scientific integrity, humanism and rational requirement.

The opening ceremony was attended by Prof. Dr. Vasile ISAN, Rector of "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, who praised the teaching, scientific and management activity carried out by Mr. Constantin TOMA, and also the devotion and contribution to the prestige of the University of Iasi. On this occasion, the rector Mr. Vasile Isan offered the Jubilee medal of the Senate Office of the University "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" to celebrate a century and a half from the founding of the first modern university in Romania.

Prof. Dr. Ion MOGLAN, dean of the Faculty of Biology, University "Alexandru Ioan Cuza", was also a student of the celebrated professor, and he highlighted the results achieved in teaching and scientific work.

Mrs. associate professor Dr. Lăcrămioara Ivănescu, Chancellor of the Faculty of Biology, "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iasi, initiator and organizer of this event, presented a speech on whole activities undertaken by Mr. Constantin TOMA, highlighting the great vocation of teacher, of scientist by contribution to the establishment and development of the modern school of histo-morphology and plant anatomy from Iasi, well recognized in our country and abroad. Into the presentation was underlined the scientific contributions on experimental anatomy, histo-anatomy of reproductive organs, embryology, blastogeny, phytoteratology, *in vitro* culture, cytogenetics, the influence of pesticides, fertilizers and chemical pollutants on plant structure. They also highlighted the contributions of Mr. Constantin TOMA for Nature Conservation and history of biology in

Romania. Scientific research results are stored in 371 articles in journals of specialty in the country, 30 articles are published in foreign journals, 15 books and monographs, 13 synthesis lectures, courses and textbooks, 8 studies published in journals and collective volumes. Also was praised the managerial activity held with competence and professionalism by Mr. Constantin Toma, as scientific secretary of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University, Dean of the Faculty of Biology, Head of Department of Plant Biology, Director of the Botanic Garden “Anastasiu Fatu”, director of the Institute of Biological Science, many years a member of the Board of the Faculty of Biology and member of the Senate of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University in Iasi.

At present, when almost everything comes down to a continuous chasing after material benefits and easily promotions in the social hierarchy, there are people like Mr. Constantin TOMA, whose concerns are not material benefit to the fore, but perseverance and dedication for Plant Biology future.

Scientific papers and messages dedicated to Mr. Constantin TOMA was included in a volume of over 400 pages entitled “*In Honorem*: to Professor Constantin Toma at his 75th anniversary”, published with the support of the GRAPHIS Publishing from Iasi. This edition has been cared by Mrs. Lăcrămioara IVĂNESCU and Maria Magdalena ZAMFIRACHE.

As a member of the Romanian Academy he has always promoted the contributions of plant biology and claimed recognition of these contributions to the development of biological sciences in Romania.

In selecting the collaborators, he sensed at the right time the quality and availability of these and always found the right words of encouragement to each one, in the most difficult moments of the beginning of any research work.

During this event Mr. Constantin TOMA presented the key moments in his career, emphasizing the importance of the work carried out with passion and dedication to academic institution, to students, PhD students and collaborators. He thanked to all participants and those who sent messages, suggesting emotional homage, the number and quality of participants, the flowers that decorated the auditorium.

We consider this event a special moment for Professor Constantin TOMA, but also for the entire academic community from Romania and the edited volume represent pages in the memory of time dedicated to a great personality for plant biology.

Vivat, crescat, floreat !

SÂRBU Ion, TĂNASE Cătălin